



STATE OF THE CITY

Mayor David Dimmitt

City of Brentwood, Missouri

Delivered January 23, 2020

Brentwood Chamber of Commerce Luncheon

Brentwood School District Conference Center

Thank you to the Brentwood Chamber of Commerce for giving me the opportunity today to share some highlights of the State of our City.

Thank you to Chamber President Mike O'Shea, Chamber Executive Director Amy Dwyer, Chamber board members, ambassadors, members and guests.

Thank you to the Brentwood School District for hosting us in this conference center. The School District is an important part of our community, and a good partner of the City. The School District graciously allowed the City to hold our Board and committee meetings here for several months as City Hall is undergoing a partial renovation.

I'd like to recognize my fellow elected officials in attendance.

Our City Administrator Bola Akande is here, along with members of the City staff. I want to give a special thank you to our Communications Manager, Janet Levy, for her help with this presentation.

Thank you all for being here today.

The state of the City of Warmth is strong. And 2019 was a milestone year for our community.

In 2019, Brentwood celebrated its first century. We celebrated all year long with more than 100 events throughout the year – from a Penguin Party, to pancake breakfasts, from the Brrrentwood Ice Festival to “Light Up the Spring.” We buried a Time Capsule. We created two coloring books. We flew kites and dedicated a new playground. We enjoyed, at various times, hot dogs, ice cream, pizza, popsicles, watermelon and story time at our parks. We hosted Sassy the Unicorn at our National Unicorn Day party. We enjoyed carriage rides during our Winter Carnival. We centennial-ized our annual Brentwood Days festival. I hope you had a chance to participate in at least one of these fun events.

We are well positioned to thrive in our second century.

In 2019, Brentwood’s ambitious, transformative Brentwood Bound plan began taking shape and breaking ground. With the Brentwood Bound plan, we aim to improve a blighted commercial area through flood mitigation, making improvements along the Manchester Road corridor, and adding parks, trails and greenspaces while increasing sales tax revenue in the area when the plan is complete.

The Brentwood Bound Plan is a comprehensive solution to overcome longtime flooding and public safety challenges presented by the Deer Creek channel and to improve the Manchester Road corridor within the City of Brentwood.

Our community overwhelmingly showed support of this multi-year, multi-phase, multi-million-dollar endeavor – as Brentwood residents cast their vote in favor of implementing the Brentwood Bound plan by a three-to-one margin, passing an economic development sales tax in April so the plan could be fully funded.

This plan is much needed. Since 1957, the area along Deer Creek between Hanley Road and South Brentwood Boulevard has flooded 26 times, creating significant public safety issues and causing property damage.

The Brentwood Bound plan's **Deer Creek Flood Mitigation** project is expected to remove 30 acres of land from the 100-year floodplain; this land can be developed when flood mitigation measures are completed.

In partnership with the Missouri Department of Transportation, the Brentwood Bound plan's **Manchester Road Improvements** project will help revitalize the area through improved pedestrian safety, with sidewalk and ADA-compliant improvements, a pedestrian tunnel, 5-foot sidewalks and 10-foot shared used path, traffic signal upgrades and additional lighting.

The City is partnering with Great Rivers Greenway to connect area residents to the surrounding communities with an enhanced greenway. The Brentwood Bound plan's **Deer Creek Greenway Connector** will connect Brentwood's Rogers Parkway with the Deer Creek Greenway. The greenway links multiple parks, and this has the potential to help connect more than 28 miles of greenways in the area.

The Brentwood Bound Plan is funded through a combination of grant funding, partnerships, and funding from certificates of participation and the economic development sales tax.

On November 18, 2019, the Board of Aldermen authorized the sale of 2019 Series Certificates of Participation in the amount of 40.4 million dollars. This amount, supported by the new economic development sales tax that went into effect January 1, 2020, combines with 39.2 million dollars in existing funding to cover the total anticipated cost of 79.6 million dollars.

With the Brentwood Bound plan fully funded, we are ready to enter the next phase and build a bright future.

Our initial groundbreaking for Brentwood Bound took place on December 18, 2019. This marked the beginning of the construction phase of the plan, and the culmination of an important collaborative effort. We could not have broken ground if it were not for the vision of those who came before us; the commitment of those working together to see this plan through; and the engaged citizens in our community who provided feedback, helped inform their neighbors about the plan, and then supported the effort with their vote.

Collaboration has been essential for the Brentwood Bound plan to become reality. Such collaboration is also evident in the City's day-to-day operations. City staff work together to ensure Brentwood remains a safe city, a city where businesses are built, a city with attractive and welcoming neighborhoods, a city with top-notch services for residents and businesses.

Elected officials and City staff continue to collaborate with federal, state and local officials to find ways to improve Brentwood through transportation projects, accessibility projects, maintaining and caring for our urban forest, and implementing flood prevention programs.

The City of Brentwood benefits substantially from its strong and diversified local economy. We continue to experience some growth in sales tax revenue while others are seeing a decline. Because of the City's location and continued strength, we have welcomed additional businesses that have chosen to open in our community. The following are just a few of the new businesses:

In August 2019, **First Watch** opened in Brentwood Square. The restaurant serves breakfast, brunch and lunch, and it will employ 20 to 25 people.

Entrepreneur Aaron Park located his **Arch Apparel** warehouse and retail store in Brentwood in 2019. Arch Apparel is a lifestyle brand that has become a go-to destination for St. Louis-inspired streetwear.

In 2019, Bed Bath and Beyond relocated within Brentwood, and its former location in the Brentwood Promenade was soon occupied by **Burlington**.

In 2020, we look forward to the opening of **Kitchen Conservatory**, St. Louis' premier kitchen store. This locally-owned, independent business will host their cooking classes at their new location on Manchester Road in Brentwood. We clearly have gained more than we have lost.

To foster reinvestment and redevelopment in the Brentwood Bound project area, the City in 2019 completed the adoption of a new **Manchester Corridor Commercial Zoning District**.

In 2020, we look forward to welcoming more businesses and new residents to our community.

This year, we will focus efforts on sustainability and participate in the Green Cities Challenge, to ensure efficiency and minimize the impact on our environment.

We will unveil a renovated City Hall, offering an enhanced customer service experience, added security features, and improvements to accessibility.

And in 2020, we will make progress on the three transformative projects within the Brentwood Bound plan.

I invite you to collaborate with us in our second century. I encourage you to explore our city and stay connected as we continue to build a bright future.

I extend my thanks to each of you for contributing to the success of the City of Brentwood. Here's to our next one hundred years!